State	Forest cover	Degraded forest
Mizoram	18,338	14,552
Nagaland	14,164	9,027
Tripura	5,745	3,517
TOTAL:	163,799	68,514

(c) As per assessment of Forest Survey of India, State-wise details of forest areas under shifting cultivation between 1987 to 1997, are as under:

Area in Sq. Km

State	Area under Shifting cultivation
Arunachal Pradesh	2304
Assam	1271
Manipur	3626
Meghalaya	1833
Mizoram	3769
Nagaland	3940
Tripura	591
TOTAL:	17,344

(d) As per State of Forest Report 1999, the total area of dense forest in the North East Region is 95.285 sq. Km.

Closure of Indo-Dutch Project under Ganga Action Plan

† 1435. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of the Netherlands Government to close down Indo-Dutch Project under Ganga Action Plan in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details regarding the conditions under which Indo-Dutch Project was sanctioned by Government;

(c) whether Government are aware of the complaints of Uttar Pradesh Government regarding this project not running according to these conditions;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, whether Government have taken up this matter with Uttar Pradesh Government; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Netherlands Government has not taken any decision to close down the Indo-Dutch project at Kanpur under Ganga Action Plan Phase-II in Uttar Pradesh. They have only indicated their intention not to grant any extension to the project beyond the original project completion date of October, 2001.

(b) to (c) Amongst other things, a major parameter relating to the scope of this project was to adopt Upflow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket technology for treatment of sewage in the town. As this technology does not adequately address to the reduction of disease causing bacteria in treated sewage and also with a view to minimizing the burden of annual operation and maintenance cost on the State Government and the local bodies, Government recommended to Netherlands Government to allow adoption of cost effective pond based sewage treatment system. However, due to difficulties in acquisition of large areas of land required for pond system as intimated by the State Government and the preference of Netherlands Government not to change the treatment technology at this stage, it has been jointly agreed by both the Government of India and the State Government to adopt the earlier envisaged treatment technology of Upflow Anaerobic Sludge Blanket for the project at Kanpur.

Protection of Cranes around Surat

1436. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether death has come quietly to the Saras Crane inhabiting in the water bodies around Surat;

(b) if so, the warnings given by the WWF officials in this regard; and

(c) the action proposed to preserve the vanishing species of crane;